

## Enhancing Sovereign Nations

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Mr. Alf Brandt, Assistant Regional Solicitor, Office of the Solicitor Pacific Southwest Region, for the United States Department of Interior

After receiving your telephone call on June 28, 1999. I have given this much thought, to your opinion on how CALFED's Program information should be disseminated to all the Tribal Governments in the State of California.

In our past conversations, I advised you not to wait to determine what Tribes will be effected by the CALFED Program. I informed you in our last conversation, as well as I have told you in the past, to set up a meeting with All The Tribal Governments and they, the Tribes, will determine who will be effected. Time is short, and time is being squandered by you now, trying to figure out what Tribes should be involved at these meetings. When I first brought this issue up about not including all the Tribes, it was back in October 98 at a BDAC meeting, and here we are, still trying to determine what to do.

Mr. Brandt, you informed me in our last telephone conversation on June 28, 1999 that, you were going to set up a meeting with the Tribal Governments on September 2, 1999. Sir, if you wait until September the 2<sup>nd</sup> to tell All The Tribal Chairs about CALFED's Program and the Programmatic EIR/EIS, that will only leave, the Tribal Governments about 21 days to unite, review all the documents, and then to comment on this CALFED Bay-Delta Program Programmatic EIR/EIS.

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I have also informed you in past, as well as in our last conversation, and I will reiterate to you again, that I oppose with the lack of Tribal involvement, and or government-to-government relationship that the Department of Interior and or CALFED Program have chosen to date. By the mere act, of not meeting and consulting with all the Tribal Governments in a timely matter, could result into failure. These acts could jeopardize your entire Program.

There many issues that CALFED, will have to face in the near future to become successful, and here are two important issues that is see.

1. The appropriate role of the Native Americans in the Governance process of CALFED.
2. The extent Native American water entitlements and their relationship to the water entitlements developed by the United States of America and the State of California over the last 150 years in California.

Let's do what is right for all. Establish a government-to-government relationship, and involve all the Tribes now. Personally Mr. Brandt, if you do not give the Tribal Governments the opportunity to chose if they even want to be on every committee, panel, workgroup, advisory council and etc, then I will personally find this a very tragic act for all mankind.

Mr. Brandt, your mission should be, to make this CALFED Program successful for all.


I would furthermore like to comment on your opinion of what the "government-to-government relationship" means to you. You may believe one thing or another, but I believe it means, to consult to the greatest extent practicable and to the extent permitted by law, prior to taking actions that effect Federally Recognized Tribal Governments, and that means, to be open and candid so that all interested parties may evaluate for Themselves the potential impact of relevant proposals, like CALFED's Program.

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William J. Clinton believes in this process, just read the Executive Order he wrote to the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies. Subject: Government-to-Government Relations with Native American Tribal Governments, dated April 29, 1994, it states clearly what should be done before starting up a program as CALFED.

Mr. Brandt, CALFED's motto is, "Working Together for a Solution", and isn't that not what we all should be doing, for the betterment of mankind?

As you see, we have a long ways to go, so let's get started.



Michael Umbrello  
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cc. William J Clinton, President of the United States of America

Al Gore, Vice President of the United States of America

Bruce Babbitt, Secretary of Interior

Gray Davis, Governor of California

George W. Bush, Governor of Texas

Bill Bradly, for President Inc.

George Miller, Congressman Seventh District of California

Lester Snow, Executive Director of CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Mike Madigan, Chair to the Bay-Delta Advisory Council